

LTV Aerospace and Defense Company

AM GENERAL DIVISION

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DIVISION OF LAND  
POLLUTION CONTROL  
STATE  
BOARD OF HEALTH

November 21, 1985

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



316228

Mary Anne Hunter  
Indiana State Board of Health  
Division of Land Pollution Control  
1330 West Michigan Street  
P. O. Box 1964  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Ms. Hunter:

On October 10, 1985, you telephoned to request information regarding past disposal practices and types of solvents used in coatings at AM General's South Bend facility in the early 1970's. You referenced a November 2, 1970, inspection of the Abe Schulman property located just west of AM General's property at 701 West Chippewa Avenue and a disposal area on the western portion of AM General's property along Gertrude Street.

Before I respond to your inquiry, I believe it is important to understand the history of AM General's South Bend manufacturing facility. The main facility was constructed in 1941 by Studebaker for manufacture of B-17 air craft engines. The facility was used by Studebaker for five or six years and was idled. The facility was then used by Curtis Wright in 1956 for production of jet engines. Curtis Wright then used the facility for production of air cars, medium duty construction equipment, block loaders, rotary engines, military trucks, and earth moving equipment. The facility was then purchased in 1964 by Kaiser Jeep to continue military truck production. In later years, Kaiser used the facility for Jeeps and postal vehicles. Kaiser Jeep was acquired by AMG around 1975 and was renamed AM General.

When the property was acquired by AMC, there was evidence of disposal of demolition fill and manufacturing facility debris on plant property along Gertrude Street. About 1966 AM General graded the disposal area and covered with clean earth fill excavated from a borrow source on-site. Prior to covering, the site was littered with scrap steel, glass, and various manufacturing equipment debris. There was no apparent evidence of paint sludge, solvents or oil.

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As you are aware, AM General did operate on-site disposal facilities for paint sludge. Two of four impoundments that received waste after the November 19, 1980 RCRA effective date were excavated and disposed off-site during the summer of 1984. The remaining two impoundments had been covered with earth and remain undisturbed. An estimated 1000-1500 yd<sup>3</sup> of paint sludge remains in these impoundments.

I contacted our paint supplier for the early 1970's and found we used the following coatings and solvents.

Alkyd Prime (Dip)	Solvent-Mineral Spirits
Alkyd Prime (Spray)	Solvent - 95% Xylol, 5% VMP Naptha (aliphatic petroleum distillate)
Alkyd Topcoat (Olive Drab)	Solvent - 75% Xylol, 10% VMP Naptha, 15% SC-150 (aromatic distillate)
Alkyd Topcoat (Olive Drab Chassis)	Solvent - 65% VMP Naptha, 35% Mineral Spirits

If I can be of further assistance, please call me (219) 237-6647.

Sincerely,

LTV AEROSPACE and DEFENSE COMPANY  
AM GENERAL DIVISION

  
D. L. Nagle

Manager, Environmental Control

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